[15th March 1955

" (g) The Government are anxious to set up the steel plant and the matter will be taken up at the appropriate time."

* 1360 Q.—Sri K. T. Raju : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to instal a steel plant at Salem ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have submitted any suggestions to the Central Government in this connection; and

(d) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the relevant papers connected with this?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" (a) The Government are examining the possibilities of setting up an Iron and Steel Plant in this State ;

" (b) No details have been worked out as the whole question depends on the availability of carbonized lignite of the type needed. This can be ascertained only when the Pilot Lignite Project has been completed and the results studied.

" (c) & (d) This Government suggested to the Government of India to include in the Second Five-Year Plan the Scheme for an iron and steel industry in the Madras State using Salem iron ores and South Arcot lignite and to make arrangements to have the details of the scheme investigated by foreign experts, if necessary. They have replied that the scheme could be considered only after commercial exploitation of lignite is started and carbonized lignite produced. The Government do not consider it necessary to place copies of the correspondence on the Table of the House."

* 1361 Q.—Sri M. Kalyanasundaram : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government are in receipt of the resolution passed by the Salem District Planning Board on 30th December 1954 regarding the location of an Iron and Steel Plant in Salem district?

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" No, Sir."

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" Sir, in order that this Government may press its claims to the Central Government, it is necessary that this Government should be informed of the details and potentialities of the scheme. Therefore, apart from the investigation conducted by the experts of the Central Government, will this Government appoint experts to go into the details of the scheme so that this Government may be informed first? "

The Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam :—" Sir, I have already answered so many times that the exploitation of iron ores in Salem is directly related to the availability of lignite in Neyveli and, therefore, we are only awaiting the results